(v) The price paid for this package of equipment was sufficiently lower than new purchases;

(vi) By immediate purchase and possession of equipment the 3-D Acquisition work of OIL for the year 1994-95 can be completed.

(b) No Sir.

(c) OIL has no in house facilities for 3-D data processing, therefore, the work had to be contracted out.

(d) and (e) The limited international tenders were issued to six parties. Two parties responded as under:—

Name of Party	Quoted Rate per shot in equivalent Indian Rupees per shot
GECO Schlumberger, USA	759·00
CGG	752·00*

*Price negotiated down to Rs. 728·45 per shot.

Allotment of dealership for Petroleum Products from the discretionary quota

182. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dealerships/distributorships for petrol/diesel retail outlets, LPG and SKO/LDO are allotted under the discretionary powers of the Minister;

(b) if so, whether any limit has been fixed upto which such allotments can be made as percentage of total allotments in a year;

(c) what was the total number of dealerships allotted for petrol/diesel retail outlets, LPG and SKO/LDO dealerships during each of the last three years and number of allotments made under the discretionary powers; and

(d) whether any specific and unambiguous criteria has been laid down for allotment of dealerships under the discretionary quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) In addition to the majority of the dealerships being awarded through the Oil Selection Boards, a few dealerships are also allotted under discretionary powers of the Government on compassionate grounds.

The number f discretionary allotments depends upon the circumstances and the necessity to make such allotments. At present there is a ceiling of 155 dealerships in a financial year as fixed in 1991. The number of dealerships allotted under discretionary quota during the last three years is indicated below:—

Year	RO	LPG	SKO/LDO	To l
1991-92	38	36	7	81
1992-93	19	64	30	113
1993-94	55	57	11	123

Difficulties to private sector in Marketing of LPG

183. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that despite opening up LPG distribution to the private sector two years ago, there has not been much headway or relief to consumers on waiting list;

(b) what are the difficulties being faced by private LPG distributors and whether continuance of Government subsidy to LPG consumers is one of these; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that when Governmental subsidy is withdrawn totally, an LPG cylinder (from INDANE, BPL, or HPCL) will cost the consum